

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A retractor comprising:
a shaft; and
an inflatable bladder which has the shape of a wedge when inflated.
2. A retractor as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder does not stretch when fully inflated.
3. A retractor as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from 10 mmHg to 1000 mmHg.
4. A retractor as in claim 3, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from 100 mmHg to 1000 mmHg.
5. A retractor as in any of claim 1, wherein the shaft is rigid.
6. A retractor as in any of claim 1, wherein the shaft is flexible.
7. A retractor as in any of claim 1, further comprising a cannula having a passage which receives the shaft to deploy the bladder at a target site in tissue.
8. A retractor as in any of claim 1, further comprising additional inflatable bladders on the shaft.

9. A retractor as in claim 8, wherein the additional inflatable bladders are separately inflatable.